

Carrier Task Force Meeting

April 23, 1998

The first meeting of the Carrier Performance Task Force was held April 23, 1998 at the Department of Workers Claims. Those in attendance were: Roger Fries, Kentucky Employers Mutual Insurance, Scott Gasser, Employer Service Corporation, Nancy Miceli, Lumberman's Underwriting Alliance, James Jones, Wausau, Don Hardy, Liberty Mutual, Commissioner Walter W. Turner, Deborah Wingate, Bruce Curry, Kitty McAllister, Joyce Bullock, and Pam Gilbert, Department of Workers Claims (DWC).

DWC began the meeting with a presentation on electronic data interchange (EDI) as it related to carrier "report cards" (timely filing of fatalities and timely filing of first reports). This presentation led to a discussion of :

Timely Filing Of Fatalities:

In the first round of report cards, the "date the employer was notified" was compared to the "date DWC was notified". This presented a problem in a few cases when the death was not immediate. The main problem with being able to more accurately report on timely filing of fatalities is that the data element, "date employer notified of the death" is not currently an IAIABC data element being collected. It was suggested that perhaps looking at payment information (start and end dates, etc.) and/or the accident description may help clarify this. It was agreed that the original date in "date employer notified" should NOT be changed and that data entry staff should be encouraged to put the correct date in that field, as presently, sometimes, other dates are being entered in error. Another suggestion was that we submit the request that a field, "date carrier notified of death", be added to the standard data collected by the IAIABC (triage). Until that time, fortunately, the number of fatalities in Kentucky is relatively small and can be investigated manually if necessary.

Timely Filing Of First Reports:

Steps are being taken to bring the regulations in line with the statute regarding timely filing of first reports. The notice of intent has been filed and a public hearing has been set for May 21st. The requirements in KRS 342.038 stand. In the first round of reports cards, sent out in December, 1997, the "date employer notified" was compared to the "date DWC was notified" to determine whether the first report of injury had been filed timely. The difference between those two dates had to be less than 15 days (which, only

for this early stage of reporting, allowed a grace period of 5 days).

What DWC learned from the carriers and TPAs after this round, was that accommodations needed to be made for no lost time injuries that later became lost time, and for occupational diseases and intermittent periods of disability. Therefore, DWC has made some programming changes to respond to this request. Occupational diseases will not be included in the next round of report cards. Also, a "warning flag" will be included on the report to indicate a possible no lost time injury that became lost time.

DWC also learned that carriers/TPAs wanted the report time broken down more specifically to compare the "date employer was notified" to the "date carrier was notified" and then to compare the "date carrier was notified" to the "MTC date" (not "date DWC notified").

This may more clearly point out where the delays in reporting are.

Finally, carriers wanted more claimant information on the report card itself. On the next round of report cards, the following information will be included: DWC file number, employee last name, employee social security number, date of injury, date disability began, date employer notified, date carrier notified, MTC date, segregated time spans, compliance indicator, and delayed lost time flag.

DWC made these changes as the result of the feedback received from carriers and TPAs through the "report card" process. The Carrier Performance Task Force endorsed these modifications at this meeting.

Other discussion pertained to:

1. the importance of using correct Federal Employer Identification Numbers (FEINS). The whole report card system is based on FEINS. Carriers and TPAs need to encourage personnel to use the appropriate one.
2. the desire on the part of the carriers/TPAs to notify the carrier and the employer of a show cause hearing for self insurers.
3. DWC's website - the suggestion was made to include a list of Carrier Performance Task Force members for contact and copies of meeting summaries for information.